

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A server system for serving a customized information page to a user at a browser on request,  
5 comprising:  
a database of user configurations;  
means for obtaining information from the user  
referencing a record in the database of user configurations,  
the record being a record for the user;  
10 means for generating a template based on the record  
for the user;  
a plurality of user processes, one process per user  
accessing the server system;  
a shared memory;  
15 a data structure within the shared memory for  
storing the dynamic information needed to generate the  
customized information page; and  
response means for responding to a request with an  
information page containing dynamic information from the data  
20 structure formatted according to the template generated for  
the user making the request.
2. The server system of claim 1, wherein the  
plurality of user processes execute on a plurality of servers,  
25 the server system further comprising a means for assigning one  
of the plurality of servers to users who send requests to the  
server system but do not already have an associated user  
process.
3. The server system of claim 2, wherein the means  
for assigning servers is a means for assigning a specific  
server to a particular user, such that the particular user is  
assigned the specific server for each request.
- 35 4. The server system of claim 3, further comprising  
a cache for caching templates for recently serviced users on  
each of the specific servers assigned to particular users.

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accepting a request for a custom page from a user;  
in response to the request, reading a user template  
for the user from a template database, wherein the user  
template describes a layout of a custom news page customized  
5 for the user;  
populating a page based on the read user template  
and the current data stored in the data structure in the  
shared memory to form a custom news page; and  
providing the custom news page to the user in real-  
10 time response to the request;

add A1  
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